



Department for Children and Families

Agency of Human Services

**Child Development Division (CDD)
Challenges for Change STAKEHOLDER GROUPS (GROUP III)**

CDD Discussions in 2009

How can we develop and implement an innovative, evidence-based model for community based services that leverages available resources to achieve best outcomes for Vermont's children and families?

What we want to achieve:

- Greater integration across CDD systems and partnerships;
- Strong consistency and fidelity to evidence based models and practices across professional development and quality improvement activities for child care providers and programs across the state;
- Decreased administrative redundancies; and
- Energy and resources focused on data driven policy development, community partner relationships, learning communities relevant to evidence-based promising practice, and mutual accountability for outcomes.

We believe that:

- High quality, child and family centered services that improve outcomes for children and families is the highest priority;
- Efficient use of available resources requires developing an integrated system that decreases administrative costs and burdens while increasing most effective use of resources to make real gains;
- A systemic approach to professional development and quality improvement can improve direct services to CC providers while containing costs and retaining locally designed collaborative responses that address identified needs and priorities;
- The allocation of state and federal resources across Vermont needs to be fair and equitable – all of Vermont's children, families and CC providers deserve equal access to opportunities and resources;
- Investments in improving the quality of services are essential;
- Prevention is a primary strategy; and
- Achievement of CDD's mission and goals for Vermont children and families depends on successful partnerships with CC providers and community partners who deliver services to CC providers.

AHS/DCF/CDD Challenges for Change March 2010 Proposal

Three related strategies to fully integrate child development services administered by CDD

- C. Restructure delivery of supports for early childhood and after school practitioners and programs to assure a systemic approach to program consultation, quality improvement, and professional development. The system to advance improved quantity and quality of child care in Vermont will be supported with a consolidated contract that balances access to available resources and consistent, well designed and widely communicated services throughout the state. Some of this work will be centralized, some may be regional, and much will be delivered locally.*

Charge for Group III: Early Childhood (EC) and Afterschool (AS) Program Consultation, Quality Improvement and Professional Development Group

Assess Vermont's current investments in expanding and supporting a skilled and capable early childhood and afterschool workforce and supporting and advancing the quality of early childhood and afterschool programs. Applying recent and emerging evidence in the research about the efficacy of various strategies in these areas, develop recommendations to apply available resources in a systemic way to identify and achieve measurable outcomes for the early childhood and afterschool workforce and for the quality of early childhood and afterschool services in Vermont.